

New England Wadeable Streams Project

Author: Hilary Snook

Key Words: probabilistic, streams, monitoring, partnerships, ecology

The primary purpose of the New England Wadeable Streams project (NEWS) is to provide assessments of the ecological conditions of Wadeable streams across New England. This effort, utilizing random probability based sampling, will provide the Northeast states with scientifically credible data that appropriately addresses and meets federal 305b reporting requirements for statewide assessments of Wadeable streams. Enhancing the quality and quantity of available information for assessing stream resources, demonstrating new monitoring methods best suited for meeting 305b requirements, and providing the transfer of emerging monitoring technologies to state environmental agencies are all primary objectives of the NEWS program.

A broader goal of the NEWS project is to promote interstate alignment in water body assessments and their subsequent interpretations. By developing and refining approaches where uniform interpretations of ecological aquatic health can be made, regardless of state boundaries and methods employed, regional water body assessments can be made and interpreted similarly. This improves methods and provides a means for moving toward normalizing water quality assessments on a national basis.

The project is a combination of efforts from EPA New England Regional Laboratory (NERL), the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), and EPA Atlantic Ecology Division (AED). The NEIWPCC has been awarded this cooperative agreement and is obtaining substantial assistance from AED in the form of probability sampling design development, GIS and statistical support, sampling protocol development and future report production. The NERL is assisting in field efforts, sample protocol development, interstate and state based coordination, technical support and technology transfer and training.

Contact Information: Hilary Snook
Environmental Scientist
OEME
617-918-8670
Snook.Hilary@epa.gov